



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yutaka KANEDA

Group Art Unit: 2827

Application No.: 10/023,651

Examiner: I. Patel

Filed: December 21, 2001

Docket No.: 111426

For: FLEXIBLE WIRING BOARDS AND MANUFACTURING PROCESSES
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the December 31, 2002 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement,

Applicant provisionally elects:

- (1) the claims of Group II (claims 2-17) and
- (2) the species I (Figures 1, 2 and 4-6).

Regarding the election of species, Applicant agrees with the Patent Office's indication that at least claim 2 is generic. Claims 2-5, 8, 9 and 12-17 currently read on the elected species.

The foregoing elections are made with traverse.

Regarding the restriction requirement, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-17 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims.

In particular, it is noted that the method recited in claim 1 of Group I is a generic process for making the novel products of claims 2-17 of Group II, and thus is clearly closely related to the subject matter of the claims of Group II.

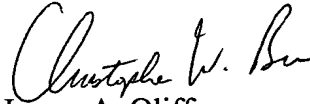
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Moreover, even if the restriction requirement is presently maintained, Applicant submits that once claims 2-17 of Group II are found in condition for allowance, the method of claim 1 of Group I should be rejoined with the application and also allowed.

Finally, regarding the election of species requirement, Applicant notes that upon allowance of the generic claim(s), all of the remaining species recited in the claims should also be allowed, the number of additional species recited in the claims certainly being no more than a reasonable number.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested. Early and favorable action on the merits with respect to all of pending claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 22, 2003

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